

The Board of Trustees of Beacon Charter School
Minutes of September 16, 2015 meeting

In Attendance: Mr. Frank Tweedie
Dr. Paul McVety
Mr. Richard Brush
Ms. Eileen Tweedie
Mrs. Laura Nottie
Mrs. Amy Bergeron
Mrs. Elaine Moy-Gederman
Mr. Leo Fontaine
Mr. George Costa

Absent: Mr. Joe Garlick
Mr. Michael Balint

Special meeting began at 6:00pm. The special meeting was convened because the lack of a quorum at the August 18, 2015 meeting.

Approval of the minutes of May 27, 2015 was tabled.

New Business:

Update on the Founders Academy:

The students have moved into the new building. They are presently using furniture from Beacon, awaiting new furniture, due to arrive at any time. The board discussed and approved the school's application for the state's Wireless Classroom Initiative.

Approval was needed for the Technology Policy for the students use of Chromebooks. A motion was made by Mr. Brush to approve the policy drawn up by Dr. Skeldon. (see the attached). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nottie and all approved.

Approval of New Hires:

Brian Hickey, Dean of the Arts
Karen Rameaka, Special Education Director
Joanne Bell, Reading Specialist

Mrs. Nottie made a motion to hire all three educators, and was seconded by Dr. McVety. All approved the motion.

Nepotism Policy: As part of the audit, the auditors have asked for the board to approve a nepotism policy. Mr. Brush made a motion to accept the Nepotism Policy with the revisions to read as follows:

The Beacon Board of Trustees must review and approve the hire of a new staff member who is related as a member of the immediate family by blood or marriage of current members of the staff or board. This includes full-time, part-time, consultants, and substitutes.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Tweedie and all approved.

Attendance Policy:

Mrs. Murphy requested to the Board to make changes in the Code of Conduct regarding Beacon's attendance policy. The changes would include a loss of credit in courses of students who are chronically truant. There was discussion about students needing to appear before a Compliance Committee due to truancy. Mr. Costa commented on students truant due to medical issues. Students should not be on the committee when it involves medical issues. HIPA violations could be in question. Only a nurse and administrators should comprise that committee. Mrs. Murphy spoke about a "Give Back" program which could mandate that the truant students would "give back" some of the time they missed school. A vote on amending the Attendance Policy in the Code of Conduct was tabled until language for the motion is written.

Policy for use of Capital funds:

Mr. Tweedie commented that with the difficulty in having a quorum at many meetings, some business decisions cannot be made, especially in allocating funds for necessary reasons. Discussion was made for the necessity to streamline the process. A motion was made by Mr. Fontaine to give the finance committee the ability to vote on emergency issues costing up to \$30,000. The vote must be unanimous in the Finance Committee and within the budget proposed. The Board is to be notified promptly when the Finance Committee exercises this authority. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nottie and all approved.

Good & Welfare:

Mr. Brush congratulated Beacon on the announcement of Beacon being named number one in the ranking of charter schools by RI Monthly.

Dr. Skeldon announced the date of this year's Gala and Auction of November 14. He was asking for donations and to plan their calendars to attend. The board's support and help is needed on the committee and the event.

A motion was made by Dr. McVety to close the meeting, and seconded by Mr. Fontaine. All approved.

The meeting ended at 6:37pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Christina Go